

## Board Chair's Annual Report

2017 was a year of significant accomplishments by the Board, and I am pleased to report that the Board continued to deliver its mandate in an efficient and professional manner.

We witnessed a number of changes to the landscape of public health service delivery during 2017 - for example, the implementation of new legislation on Healthy Menu Choices, new Standards for Public Health Programs and Services, and amendments to the Regulations made under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. We were engaged in addressing a number of topical issues, for example the Opioid Crisis where we partnered with Police and other First Responders across the region in delivering education programs on this very important subject. This is just one of the many examples of how our Public Health Unit is responding to the needs of our communities.

The past year was also one of considerable concern resulting from the report on the Minister's Expert Panel on Public Health, and the possible impact that the proposed recommendations could have on local public health units across the Province. In its due diligence role, the Board responded accordingly by identifying and communicating our concerns to the Minister. Very importantly, we connected with our partner municipalities who advocated on our behalf to AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario). AMO responded to the Minister strongly objecting to the proposed recommendations identified by the Expert Panel, and I quote: "After careful consideration by AMO's Board of Directors and our Health Task Force, AMO does not support the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Public Health and urges the government not to adopt them. If the Expert Panel recommendations are implemented, it will completely change and dilute over time the mandate of the local public health system by integrating it with the health care system. There was no analysis provided by either the Expert Panel or the Ministry on the implications of this proposed integration from either a patient, program/service, or cost analysis perspective". To date, we have not received further communication from the Minister's Office about the future direction that the Ministry intends to take on this Report.

Reflecting back on the accomplishments of the Board, it is important to acknowledge the important role that the Committees play in reviewing and making recommendations to the Board on key and emerging issues. When the Committee structure was introduced three years ago, Committees were not prevalent in health units across the Province. Considering the enormous amount of materials covered by our Board's Committees, it is difficult to imagine how we would manage effectively without them. It was interesting to read a recent report of a Treasury Board Audit conducted elsewhere in the Province which specifically addressed the need for the establishment of a Committee structure to support their Board.

In addition to regularly reviewing/updating Board policies and procedures, the Governance and Quality Assurance Committee in 2017 undertook an exercise in self-audit using alPHA's Governance Toolkit for Ontario Boards of Health. They reviewed the Public Health Accountability Framework and Organizational Requirements; recommended changes to the way the Board communicates with its members and its partner municipalities; and reviewed and recommended a response to the Ministry's request for feedback on the implementation of the new Standards for Public Health Programs and Services. As well, they reviewed local health unit organizational changes in response to the new Standards, the Board's Orientation Manual, Annual Service Plan Reporting, Board and Committee Workplans, Committee Membership, Chair/Vice Chair nominations, and Terms of Reference for the 2018 Strategic Plan Review. Thank you to the Committee Chair, Cheryl Russell-Julien, and Members for your contributions and dedication to this important work.

The Finance, Audit, Property and Risk Management Committee reviewed a wide range of financial matters over the past year, with recommendations to the Board on the following: 2016 Audit/Audited Financial Statements; Banking arrangements/line of credit; Investment Policy Review and Reserve Fund Investments; Budget/fee structure for the Land Control Program; Review of the Risk Management

Policy/Overall Risk Assessment of the Health Unit; Property Report including Capital Repairs and Lease Negotiations; Financial implications pertaining to Collective Agreements; Quarterly reviews of the 2017 Financial Statements; 2018 Budget and Municipal Levy; and the Policy on Board Stipends. Thank you to the Committee Chair, Joe Gallipeau, and the Committee members for your continuing contributions to this Committee.

Generative Governance: We held two generative discussions during the year, one on the Opioid Crisis, and one on the proposed legislation regarding marijuana. As you know, the purpose of generative governance is for the Board to review subject matters in a more participatory manner than a structured agenda-based meeting would provide. Both of the subject matters were very well received by all in attendance. Thank you to Dr. Stewart and the staff for their involvement in preparing the background materials for these discussions.

Board Membership: While change is inevitable in any organization, it is perhaps more so with Boards of Health, mainly because of the Board's composition and appointments. Our Board consists of seven members representing our partner municipalities, and six members who are provincial appointees. Municipal appointments are normally for the four-year term of their Council, while provincial appointments are for three-year terms.

For the first time in a few years, we reached full membership in 2017 with the appointment of three new members, Candace Kaine, Sherryl Smith, and Toni Surko. They bring a wide range of senior level backgrounds and varied skills which will be extremely helpful to the Board and its Committees as we move forward. Ivanette Hargreave's provincial appointment expires this month, and we thank her for contributions to the Board and wish her well in her future endeavours. She will be replaced by William Fayle who joins us later this month, again bringing to the Board an excellent and varied background. It is important to note that our provincial members are also representative of the wide geographical area covered by our Health Unit.

From the municipal level, we welcomed David Nash in 2017 from the United Counties, who replaced Robin Jones who left the Board following her appointment as the Warden of the United Counties. Also in 2017, Philip Deery joined us from the City of Brockville, and will be replaced this year by David LeSueur who is no stranger to the Board, having been with us three years ago. We thank Philip for his contributions and considerable input to discussions of the Board, and we welcome David back.

In summary, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Vice Chair, Doug Malanka, and to the other Board members, and to Dr. Stewart and staff for your support to me in my role as Board Chair. A special thank you to Heather Bruce, Executive Assistant to the Board and its Committees, for her dedication and professionalism.

Thank you all again for the outstanding work you do in ensuring that we continue to fulfill our governance role in meeting the public health mandate of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

Anne Warren, Chair,  
Board of Directors